



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

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GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY FOR CONTINUOUS PROCESSING SCALE-UP FACILITY PLANNED AT IHDIV, NSWC

The Indian Head Division, Naval Surface Warfare Center will celebrate the beginning of a FY99 \$6.59M Military Construction Project, MILCON P-158, with a ground breaking ceremony for the Continuous Processing Scale-up Facility on Monday, 18 September. This event will begin with a morning reception at 0945 at the Dashiell Conference Center. At 1015 guests will be transported to the construction site where the official ceremony will begin at 1030.

IHDIV's mission is to ensure operational readiness of U.S. and Allied Forces by providing full spectrum technical capabilities necessary to rapidly move any energetic material from concept through low rate production, to operational deployment. Energetics are materials that burn or detonate; they are explosives and propellants that are used to get the ordnance to the target and, or to meet the military's lethality requirements.

Energetic materials are currently produced through batch processing which requires a series of operations involving multiple facilities. The IHDIV recognizes that conventional batch processing techniques are at the limits of their capabilities in meeting operational requirements and offer little opportunity to further reduce costs.

This new facility will allow the IHDIV to continue to meet the fleet's need for developing new methods for producing higher performing and lower cost energetic materials. Continuous processing is the future in energetics manufacturing technology in that it will yield energetic materials from a single machine in a single facility. It is the only technology on the horizon that has the potential to improve product manufacturing while reducing the safety risk, reducing waste generation and lowering the cost to operate and maintain the manufacturing capability.

The DoD needs research and development expertise to remain smart buyers and advisors. Once established, the goal of this facility is to then transfer this manufacturing technology to the private sector. As Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition & Technology) Jacques Gansler stated, "It is for this reason that DoD is investing in continuous processing technology...the investment is expected to be recouped as it provides cost savings based on its efficiency, improved safety, and environmental friendliness."

Construction on this facility is scheduled to begin in February 2001 with a 2002 completion date.

The IHDIV, NSWC is a National Center for Energetics. Nearly 2000 employees, of which over 600 are scientists and engineers, specialize in the research, development, manufacturing and test of explosives and propellants for the Department of Defense. The IHDIV is the largest employer in Charles County.

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